

Message Text

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SUBJ: NY TIMES ARTICLE ON US ARMY INTELLIGENCE IN

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GERMANY

1. SUMMARY. THE NEW YORK TIMES ON JULY 28 PUBLISHED A
BONN-DATELINED, FIRST PAGE ARTICLE BY CRAIG R. WHITNEY

UNDER HEADLINE "U.S. ARMY IS SAID TO SPY ON CRITICS IN GERMANY." SENSE OF ARTICLE IS THAT U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE HAS BEGUN AN "OFFENSIVE" AGAINST ANTI-ARMY CIVILIAN GROUPS IN THE FRG, "TAPPING THEIR TELEPHONES, PHOTOGRAPHING THEIR MEETING PLACES AND TRYING TO INFILTRATE THEM." AS SOURCES WHITNEY CITES UNNAMED "PARTICIPATING INTELLIGENCE AGENTS" AND MILITARY DOCUMENTS MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM, AS WELL AS INTERVIEWS WITH SOME OF THE ALLEGED TARGETS OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: U.S. ARMY IS SAID TO SPY ON ITS CRITICS IN GERMANY BY CRAIG R. WHITNEY. BONN JULY 27--UNITED STATES ARMY INTELLIGENCE HAS BEGUN A PROGRAM OF "OFFENSIVE COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE" AGAINST ANTI-ARMY CIVILIAN GROUPS IN WEST GERMANY--TAPPING THEIR TELEPHONES, PHOTOGRAPHING THEIR MEETING PLACES AND TRYING TO INFILTRATE THEM, ACCORDING TO SOME OF THE PARTICIPATING INTELLIGENCE AGENTS.

2.A. THE AGENTS, WHO BELIEVE THAT THE PROGRAM IS ILLEGAL, HAVE PROTESTED BY DISCLOSING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES OPERATIONAL ORDERS AND COPIES OF TRANSCRIPTS OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS MONITORED BY AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE HERE. THEY SAY THAT THE COUNTEROFFENSIVE INCLUDES SOME OPERATIONS AGAINST GERMAN CIVILIAN ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH, ACCORDING TO EXPLICIT WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS WERE NOT TO BE MENTIONED TO GERMAN AUTHORITIES.

2.B. THE PURPOSE OF THE OPERATIONS, THE AGENTS SAY, IS TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY GROUPS AND ON INDIVIDUALS IN WEST GERMANY WHO THE ARMY BELIEVES ARE ENCOURAGING DESERTION OR OTHERWISE CAUSING TROUBLE.

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2.C. THE ARMY'S EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS IN HEIDELBERG, QUESTIONED IN DETAIL THIS WEEK ABOUT THE ALLEGATIONS BY THE AGENTS AND ABOUT TELEPHONE TAP TRANSCRIPTS OBTAINED BY THE TIMES, RESPONDED IN FULL:

"ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOR THE SECURITY OF USAREUR (UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE) ARE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.S. LAW, F.R.G. LAW AND THE STATUS-OF-FORCES AGREEMENT. THIS HEADQUARTERS DOES NOT CONFIRM OR DENY SPECIFIC CLASSIFIED OPERATIONS."

2.D. GERMAN LAW AND THE STATUS-OF-FORCES AGREEMENT--WHICH GOVERNS THE MORE THAN 200,000 AMERICAN TROOPS IN WEST GERMANY--HAVE NOT PERMITTED AMERICAN AGENTS TO

MONITOR GERMAN TELEPHONE LINES OR TO CONDUCT OTHER SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS WITHOUT PERMISSION.

2.E. THE GERMAN LAW, PASSED IN 1968, DOES PERMIT GERMAN POLICEMEN AND OTHER AUTHORITIES TO CONDUCT SUCH ACTIVITIES, BUT ONLY AFTER OBTAINING A COURT ORDER. THEY MAY ACT ON BEHALF OF "TROOPS OF THE NON-GERMAN NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE COUNTRIES STATIONED IN GERMANY OR IN BERLIN," IF THEIR SECURITY IS THREATENED.

KEY GENERAL NAMED

3. ACCORDING TO AN INTERVIEW WITH A MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENT, THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE SUMMER "OFFENSIVE" IS MAJ. GEN. HAROLD R. AARON WHO BECAME DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE AT HEIDELBERG HEADQUARTERS LAST SEPT. 7.

3.A. GENERAL AARON WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT THIS WEEK. SPOKESMEN FOR THE COMMAND SAID THAT HE WAS ON LEAVE UNTIL JULY 30 AND THAT REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS WOULD BE RELAYED TO HIM THEN.

3.B. ALTHOUGH INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS IN WEST GERMANY ARE SECRET, AGENTS SAY THE MAJOR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNIT IN THE COUNTRY IS THE 66TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GROUP IN MUNICH, WHICH COMMANDS SUBORDINATE UNITS ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING THE 527TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION IN KAISERSLAUTERN.

"GENERAL AARON HAS ISSUED ORDERS RIGHT DOWN THROUGH THE CHAIN OF COMMAND," THE AGENT SAID. "HE HAS ISSUED ORDERS AND DIRECTIVES TO FIND OUT WHO IS 'INDUCING DESERTERS' AND 'AIDING DESERTERS'--THOSE ARE EXACT QUOTES. HE HAS SAID THAT THE VIETNAM WAR IS OVER, AND THAT 'WE MUST START AFRESH'--ANOTHER EXACT QUOTE--TO FIND OUT HOW RESISTANCE TO THE ARMY IS BEING ENCOURAGED."

RE-ENLISTMENT TOP PRIORITY

4. THE ARMY IN EUROPE IS EMPHASIZING THE "ALL VOLUNTEER" CONCEPT, AND OFFICIALS ARE KNOWN TO BE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO INSURE THAT A CLIMATE FAVORABLE TO RE-ENLISTMENT EXISTS.

4.A. WEST GERMANY HAS SEVERAL UNDERGROUND NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED BY G.I.'S, SOMETIMES WITH THE HELP OF GERMAN AND AMERICAN CIVILIANS, AND THESE--PARTICULARLY ONE IN WIESBADEN--ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT TARGETS OF THE

SUMMER INTELLIGENCE OFFENSIVE, ACCORDING TO AGENTS.

4.B. A LETTER FROM AN INTELLIGENCE STAFF OFFICER, IN THE 8TH INFANTRY DIVISION, DATED BEFORE THE START OF THE CURRENT INTELLIGENCE OFFENSIVE, SAYS, "UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS UNDER-GROUND NEWSPAPERS HAVE CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN WITHIN ALL LEVELS OF COMMAND." IT URGED UNIT COMMANDERS TO IDENTIFY THOSE WHO PUBLISH THEM, "SO AS TO ASSIST IN DETERMINING THE EXTENT AND INFLUENCE THOSE INDIVIDUALS HAVE ON 8TH INFANTRY DIVISION TROOPS."

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CARTOONS BUT NO INCITEMENT

5. THE NEWSPAPERS INCLUDE CARTOONS, CHARACTERIZATIONS OF ARMY OFFICERS AND NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS AS "PIGS" AND MUCH INFORMATION ON HOW G.I.'S CAN EXERCISE THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS BUT, AS FAR AS THIS CORRESPONDENT HAS SEEN, NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO DESERT.

5.A. OTHER TARGETS OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFENSIVE, AGENTS SAY, ARE GERMAN UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONS AND EVEN A PROTESTANT MISSION NEAR MAINZ UNIVERSITY, FOR WHICH A SURVEILLANCE AND PENETRATION PLAN CODE-NAMED PENGUIN MONK WAS DRAWN UP EARLIER THIS SUMMER. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS WERE GIVEN THAT GERMAN AUTHORITIES NOT BE TOLD ABOUT IT.

5.B. THE OBJECTIVE OF ONE OPERATION IN MAINZ--AGAINST THE GOSSNER MISSION ON ALBERT SCHWEITZERSTRASSE NEAR THE CITY'S UNIVERSITY--WAS "TO DETERMINE IF THE GOSSNER MISSION DOES OR DOES NOT INDUCE OR ASSIST U.S. SOLDIERS TO DEFECT-DESERT FROM THE MILITARY," ACCORDING TO AN ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE ORDER OBTAINED FROM AN AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCE.

5.C. THE MISSION IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER RECESS. BUT AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT IT WAS UNDER SURVEILLANCE NEVERTHELESS, AND THAT THE PLAN CALLED FOR AN AGENT TO PRESENT HIMSELF AT THE MISSION AND PRETEND THAT HE WANTED TO DESERT.

5.D. HE SAID THAT THE ORDER FOR OPERATION PENGUIN MONK SPECIFIED THAT "AT NO TIME WILL THE GOSSNER MISSION BE MENTIONED TO THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES" BECAUSE THEY WOULD REFUSE TO COOPERATE IN INVESTIGATING A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION.

5.E. HE SAID THAT THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO KEEP THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES IN IGNORANCE. GERMAN OFFICIALS, QUESTIONED ABOUT THE SURVEILLANCE OPERATION, COULD NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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IMMEDIATELY GIVE ANY ANSWERS ABOUT IT.

5.F. A LIST OF NAMES ON THE ORDER ALSO INCLUDED THAT OF A GERMAN CLERGYMAN, HORST STUCKMANN, AND THOSE OF G.I.'S WHO WORK ON THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE PAPER IN WIESBADEN. PASTOR STUCKMANN WORKS NOT AT THE GOSSNER MISSION, BUT AT THE EVANGELICAL STUDENT COMMUNITY ABOUT HALF A MILE AWAY. HE HAS SAID THAT HE HAS ALLOWED AMERICAN SOLDIERS "TO RUN OFF THEIR PAPERS ON OUR MEMEOGRAPH MACHINE."

ANTIARMY CONSULTANT MONITORED

6. ANOTHER CIVILIAN WHO KNOWS THAT HE IS UNDER SURVEILLANCE IS TOMI SCHWAETZER, WHO WRITES UNDER THE PEN NAME MAX WATTS FOR LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE IN HEIDELBERG, WHICH AS THE "AGENTS' NOTES" ON ONE OF HIS MONITORED TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS DESCRIBES IT, "OFFERS LEGAL AID TO SERVICEMEN WHO DO NOT TRUST THE MILITARY JUDICIAL SYSTEM."

6.A. MR. SCHWAETZER, WHO WAS BORN IN AUSTRIA, IS DESCRIBED AS AN "ANTI-U.S. ARMY ACTIVIST" IN THE TRANSCRIPTS. HE DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS "AN INDEPENDENT LEFTIST." "I ADMIRE THE AMERICAN G.I.'S RESISTANCE TO AUTHORITARIAN METHODS," HE SAYS. AND HE ADDS THAT HE WAS EXPELLED FROM FRANCE IN 1969, APPARENTLY FOR WORKING, IN SOME CASES WITH AMERICAN DESERTERS, AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR.

6.B. THE TRANSCRIPTS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS ON HIS GERMAN CIVILIAN TELEPHONE CARRY THE SECURITY CLASSIFICATION "CONFIDENTIAL." AND ITEMS DESCRIBING "EXTENDED COVERAGE" OF HIM ARE FURTHER CLASSIFIED "NOFORN," WHICH MEANS "NO DISSEMINATION TO FOREIGN NATIONALS." INTELLIGENCE AGENTS SAY THIS INDICATES THAT THE INFORMATION CAN NOT BE GIVEN TO THE GERMAN POLICE OR MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

'SENSITIVE METHODS INVOLVED'

7. THE TRANSCRIPTS FURTHER CARRY THE NOTATION "WARNING NOTICE--SENSITIVE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED." MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE CONVERSATIONS WERE ROUTINE AND CONCERNED MR. SCHWAETZER'S CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE IN THE OFFICE OF

THE LAWYER'S MILITARY DEFENSE COMMITTEE OR WITH CORRESPONDENTS FOR OTHER NEWS ORGANIZATIONS IN WEST GERMANY.

7.A. THE CONVERSATIONS ALL OCCURRED IN JUNE. MR. SCHWAETZER SAYS HE ASSUMES THAT HIS TELEPHONE IS STILL BEING TAPPED AND THAT HIS MAIL IS BEING INTERCEPTED. "A GERMAN POSTMAN TIPPED ME OFF THAT IT WAS BEING HELD UP IN THE MAIN POST OFFICE," HE SAID.

7.C. ONE TRANSCRIPT OF HIS PHONE CONVERSATIONS EVEN REPORTS HIS FEARS TO ARMY INTELLIGENCE:

"MAX HASN'T RECEIVED HIS MONEY YET," RELATES THE AGENT'S REPORT OF A CONVERSATION WITH JOANNA PRYM OF THE OVERSEAS WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IN FRANKFURT.

" 'MAX--STOPPING MY MAIL IS ONE THING, BUT KEEPING MY MONEY IS TOO MUCH'.

" 'JOANNA--A LETTER FROM MUNICH OCCASIONALLY TAKES A WEEK.'

" 'MAX--IT DOESN'T TAKE THAT LONG UNLESS THEY ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR MAIL. I THINK THEY ARE INTERESTED IN YOURS AS WELL.'

" 'JOANNA--NO, I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE SO MUCH TIME.'"

7.D. THE TRANSCRIPT IS SIGNED BY FRANK E. DENT, A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE 66TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GROUP AND DATED IN JULY.

7.E. OTHER DOCUMENTS SIGNED BY DAVID C. WALES, OPERATIONS OFFICER OF THE 527TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION, DIRECTED THAT UNIT'S HEIDELBERG FIELD OFFICE TO OBTAIN SAMPLES OF MR. SCHWAETZER'S HANDWRITING "THRU POLICE UNCLASSIFIED

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CHECKS" AND GERMAN SECRET SERVICE LIASION.

7.F. ONE AGENT WHO TOLD WHAT HE KNEW TO MR. SCHWAETZER SAID IN AN INTERVIEW: "WHAT THEY ARE GATHERING ISN'T THAT USEFUL. I CONSIDER IT THE SAME MENTALITY AS WHAT IS GOING ON IN WASHINGTON. IT SETS UP A FRAMEWORK FOR INVASION OF PRIVATE AMERICAN AND GERMAN CIVIL RIGHTS. THIS RIDICULOUS BUSINESS HAS GOT TO BE STOPPED."

AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED

8. HE ADDED THAT ARMY REGULATIONS REQUIRED THAT THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY APPROVE ANY OPERATION

INVOLVING SURVEILLANCE OF CIVILIANS, AND HE THOUGHT THAT SUCH APPROVAL HAD NOT BEEN SOUGHT IN SUCH CURRENT OPERATIONS AS PENGUIN MONK.

8.A. HE ALSO SAID THAT GERMAN STUDENT GROUPS HAD BEEN INFILTRATED BY AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS, THAT AGENTS WITHIN SOME CIVILIAN GROUPS WERE KEEPING RECORDS OF MAIL SENT TO THEM AND TO THE GROUPS' MEMBERS, AND THAT PHOTOGRAPHS WERE BEING TAKEN OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF MANY GROUPS.

"IT GETS INTO QUITE A BIT OF MONEY," HE SAID,
"AND I THINK IT'S A BIG WASTE."

8.B. THE AGENT ASKED THAT HIS NAME AND UNIT NOT BE PUBLISHED BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE PUNISHMENT FOR REVEALING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. HE ADDED THAT IF THE AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED HIS IDENTITY, HE WOULD STAND BY HIS STORY. END TEXT. ROGERS

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